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Law School Report

Class of '94 Employment Report

By Audrey Koscielniak
Assistant Dean for Career Development

For the third year in a row, the UB Law employment rate has shown improvement, a trend in line with national statistics. With a 100 percent response (yes, we heard from everyone in the class), 89 percent of the graduates were employed or pursuing advanced studies. This is 1 percent up from last year's 88 percent employment rate and 3 percent up from 1992. Since our official closing date for data (March 1), a number of our job seekers have since found employment. Their employed status is not reflected in our statistics.

Persistence and resilience — rather than a softening employment market — often were the keys to employment success. To their credit, graduates made some noteworthy achievements, including a judicial clerkship at the U.S. Tax Court (Washington, D.C.), in-house legal positions with Fortune 500 companies, and an associate position with a law firm in far-away Saipan.

Sector

As usual, the Private Law Firm sector accounts for most law graduate employment. At 51.3 percent, however, it is substantially smaller than 1993's 57.3 percent. National Association for Law Placement (NALP) statistics also show private practice declining. Nationally, the figure is down to 55 percent from its high of 64.3 percent (1988).

Business and Industry showed a substantial increase reaching over 15.4

percent, double last year's figure. This is also in line with national results. NALP reports employment in business at 12 percent, a notable increase from the prior year, when it was 10.6 percent. Just as in NALP's survey, over half of UB's business and industry positions were non-legal.

The business and industry category is particularly effective in demonstrating the range of applications for a legal education. The most traditional option is the in-house counsel position. Several '94s secured such positions and their employers included Fortune 500 companies. Since corporate staff attorney positions are rare and usually filled by experienced attorneys, these graduates deserve kudos for their achievement. Other graduates joined companies in administrative positions, often returning to companies to which they have had previous ties (e.g., owner, partner, family-owned). Although officially "non-legal," these graduates are certain to use their legal skills of analysis, problem solving, and knowledge of the law. In the non-legal category we also have an arbitrator, a union organizer, a corporate recruiter, and editors for legal publications.

In the public sector, budgets remained tight. Government hiring showed a minimal increase (.13 percent). This category included hirings through the U.S. Justice Department's highly competitive Honors Program. Of the 120 positions available nationally, 78 of the Justice slots were filled by graduating seniors. We are pleased that 2 of those offers went to UB grad-

uates. Although our federal statistic was at the lowest level we have seen in years (4 positions), state and local government hiring remained solid (8 each).

At 6.15 percent, UB's Public Interest hiring remains strong compared to the national average of 2.8 percent. However, the '94 percentage is down over 4 percent and is the lowest figure since 1984's 6 percent. Surely, the decline is a reflection of reduced funding and the resulting decrease in opportunities for new grads. Public interest offices continue to need attorneys. UB graduates continue to be qualified and enthusiastic candidates who want to work at these organizations; however, reports from the field as well as political and economic trends foretell an even more difficult market for '95 graduates.

Judicial Clerkships (5.6 percent) had a federal emphasis in 1994. Graduates became judicial clerks at all U.S. court levels: Tax Court, Court of Appeals (9th Circuit), District Court (NDNY), Federal Magistrate (WDNY), Bankruptcy Court (WDNY), and an administrative law court (U.S. Department of Labor).

The Academic sector accounts for 9.2 percent of our graduates. Four graduates choose LL.M. studies. Last year only 1 graduate pursued that option. Nine graduates pursued non-law advanced degrees, the highest number in several years. Most of these graduates are completing Ph.D. and M.B.A. degree studies which were begun while in law school. We also

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have a future law librarian in the group as one graduate pursued an M.L.S. degree. The bulk of the graduates in this category were employed in teaching or administrative positions at educational institutions of all levels.

The Air Force was the branch of choice for all graduates in the Military category. Compared to last year's count of 1, this year's 4 JAGC officers looks pretty substantial.

Geographic Locations

"I love New York" continues to be the dominant theme for UB graduates.

Almost 78 percent of the employed graduates stayed in New York State, a slight decline from '93 (80.2 percent) but still far higher than '92 (70.3 percent). At 40 percent, the Buffalo area again accounted for the highest city concentration of graduates. That is 3 percent less than last year, but still far higher than the 35 percent figure for 1990. New York City and Rochester both show an 11 percent figure. This is a 2 percent decline for New Yorkers but a substantial increase (5 percent) for Rochesterians. Albany returned to typical employment levels (2 percent)

after last year's high of 4 percent.

Although only 22 percent of the graduates left New York State, the Class of '94 seems to have covered more geography than their recent predecessors. Over 6 percent have gone to the far West, landing in Arizona, Montana, Colorado, Washington, California and even Alaska. Two graduates kept going, taking employment across the Pacific. One is now teaching in Seoul, Korea, while another became an associate at a law firm in Saipan! ■

SALARY SURVEY

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	# REPORTING/ TOTAL	LOW	HIGH	MEAN AVERAGE
PRIVATE PRACTICE	70/100	\$13,000	\$83,000	\$37,978
Very Large	17/18	\$42,000	\$83,000	\$56,706
Large	7/8	\$42,000	\$55,000	\$46,000
Medium	7/8	\$26,000	\$42,500	\$34,857
Small	8/8	\$20,000	\$34,000	\$29,625
Very Small	31/50	\$13,000	\$44,000	\$28,756
Self-Employed	0/0	—	—	—
Size Not Identified	0/8	—	—	—
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	14/30	\$20,800	\$64,000	\$44,971
GOVERNMENT	18/20	\$18,000	\$60,000	\$33,535
Federal	4/4	\$29,000	\$50,050	\$37,981
State	6/8	\$21,000	\$33,500	\$29,317
Local	8/8	\$18,000	\$60,000	\$34,475
PUBLIC INTEREST	8/12	\$21,388	\$31,000	\$26,592
JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS	11/11	\$25,000	\$42,574	\$35,949
MILITARY	1/4	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
ACADEMIC	3/18	\$30,000	\$36,000	\$30,333
TOTAL	125/195			
MEAN (AVERAGE)		\$37,007		
MEDIAN			\$34,000	
MODE				\$30,000

Includes full- and part-time annual salaries.

Employment Statistics

Class of '94

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

CATEGORY	#	%			
PRIVATE PRACTICE	100	51.28%	GOVERNMENT	20	10.26
18 Very Large			LEGAL	15	
8 Large			3 Federal		
8 Medium			5 State		
8 Small			7 Local		
8 Small			NON-LEGAL	5	
50 Very Small			1 Federal		
0 Self-Employed			3 State		
8 Size Unknown			0 Local		
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	30	15.38%	JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS	11	5.64%
LEGAL	13		6 Federal		
0 Accounting			5 State		
0 Bank/Financial			0 Local		
10 Corporation/Business			MILITARY	4	2.05%
0 Insurance			4 Air Force/JAGC		
3 Other			ACADEMIC	18	9.23%
NON-LEGAL	17		4 Adv Law Study		
1 Bank/Financial			9 Adv Non-Law Study		
14 Corporation/Business			5 Other (Faculty, Admin., Other)		
2 Other			EMPLOYED/		
PUBLIC INTEREST	12	6.15%	ADVANCE STUDY	195	83%
LEGAL	11		173 Full-Time		
2 Legal Aid/PD			22 Part-Time		
5 Legal Services			SEEKING EMPLOYMENT	25	11%
4 Other			Have Bar Admittance		
NON-LEGAL	1		TOTAL GRADUATES		
0 Legal Aid/PD			IN CLASS	235	100%
1 Other					

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

NEW ENGLAND	3
2 Connecticut	
1 Massachusetts	
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	159
152 New York	
3 Albany	
2 Binghamton	
78 Buffalo	
22 New York	
22 Rochester	
5 Syracuse	
19 Other	
1 City Not ID'd	
4 Pennsylvania	
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	5
3 Illinois	
2 Michigan	
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	0
SOUTH ATLANTIC	12
6 District of Columbia	
1 Delaware	
2 Florida	
1 Georgia	
1 Maryland	
1 Virginia	
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	0
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	2
2 Texas	
MOUNTAIN	4
1 Arizona	
1 Montana	
2 Colorado	
PACIFIC	6
1 Arkansas	
3 California	
2 Washington	
FOREIGN	2
Korea	
Sipan	
TOTAL	195

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